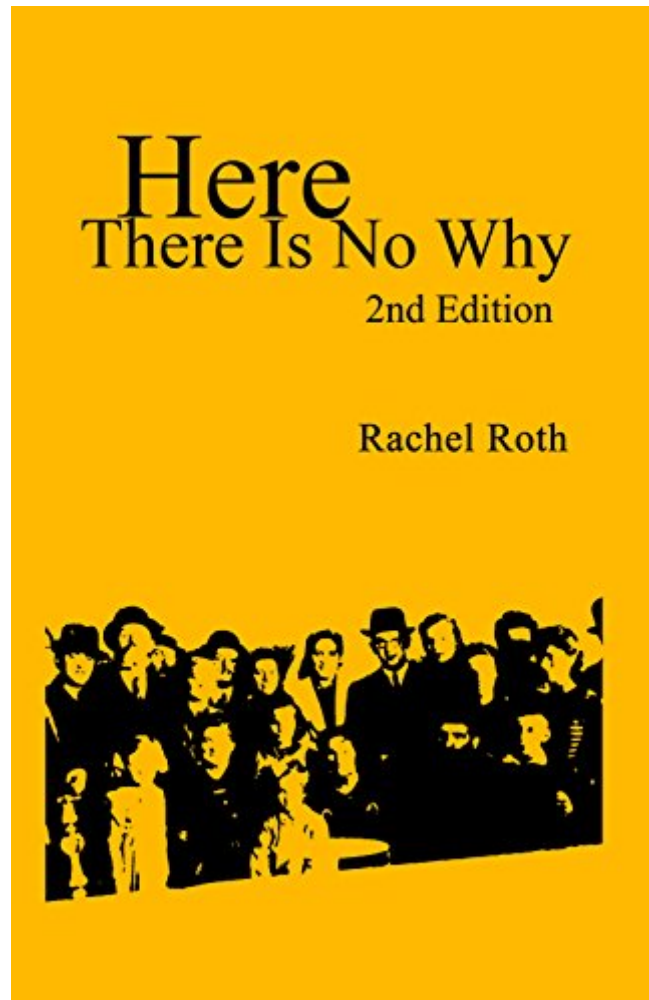


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Here There Is No Why



Synopsis

“Here There Is No Why” was the infamous Dr. Joseph Mengele’s answer to Roma, the author, and to millions of Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Written to fulfill a promise made in the darkest moment of human history, this simple and eloquent story is unique in that it spans the geography of the Nazi’s Final Solution. Rachel (Roma in Polish), the teenage daughter of a journalist, relays to us the experiences of a schoolgirl and her classmates under the German occupied Warsaw Ghetto. She is a witness and participant in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. After the Nazis smoke her out of hiding, she bravely faces the reality of the gas chambers and concentration camps in Poland and Germany. Originally written in Polish, this is an eloquent and unforgettable account of survival.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In my library I have over 900 Holocaust books, over 900 people telling the same story, but each one’s story has its unique, amazing survival twist. Rachel describes time spent in the cattle car in such great detail that you feel you are there with her, suffering. She tells about Dr. Korczak and his 200 orphans, the Dunies family all being killed, the little red dress hanging on the back of a chair never to be worn again, her and her grandfather running from one hiding place to another only to be

burned out eachtime. Rachel describes Auschwitz --'Every minute equals an hour, and each day last a whole year. You need sharp senses of a fox to survive, even then that is no guarantee.' I enjoyed reading this book.

Whenever I use the word "wonderful" in relation to this review, I wonder if people think I do not feel the pain of the writer. Not so. Rachel Roth's story is long, detailed and wonderfully told. Many new insights that I had not ever read before in another Survivor book. She even mentions the death of her great-grandmother, the first time anyone spoke of a great grandmother at that time, as people, generally, died far younger than today. At any rate, Rachel lived through far more than many, but this is not a judgment, suffering is suffering. She just lived longer than most through such horrific circumstances. Her experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, are invaluable and her time in Majdanek Concentration Camp, is a rare document. It is a worthwhile read. It is a well told story.

I have read countless books about the Holocaust. Having grown up in Europe in WW11 it is of particular interest to me. This book is above and beyond all others. Could not put it down. Gives a great insight into that terrible world.

Not only was this an amazing story of the life and struggles of a young woman and her sister-law as they are taken from the Warsaw ghetto and placed in Bergen Belsen Concentration Camp but the story is written by an amazing writer that brings the story to life. Exceptional story, exceptional writing.

The author tells her harrowing story of life starting in her family home in Warsaw. From there she continues on with her relocation to the ghetto and then on to a series of death camps with her Aunt by her side. She tells of all the wartime crimes and atrocities committed during WWII on the Jewish population in all of Europe and how she was able to overcome and live to see liberation. At times the author seems to jump around in her story which makes following it at times difficult. There are also many people and places with similar names that she introduced at the beginning and loses track of but then they resurface near the end. Despite some difficulties following in parts I gave this book a 5, it tells an emotional story and in the end brought me to tears!

Here There is No Why, whose title is taken from a statement by the infamous medically trained (though certainly no healer!) Nazi Josef Mengele at Auschwitz, is perhaps the best of the World War

II/Holocaust memoirs I have read. In part, it is powerful simply because Rachel Roth survived not only the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, but also three of the most notorious concentration camps, including Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz -- and Mengele's infamous selections. It is also powerful because of the deftness with which she describes the experiences, at times painting terrifically detailed scenes, at times allowing the horrific events to speak for themselves without cloaking them in emotionally charged language. Yet the emotions are there, when they are most telling. One of the ways she survived was to dream of better times, to transport herself -- and others, too -- away from the camps to better times and places. After sharing one of these stories with those around her, an anonymous prisoner made her promise to write of what happened there. It would be decades before she was ready to do so. In keeping her promise, she has given us a tremendous gift -- and one that cost her a great deal in recalled pain. It is understandable that she needed time to fulfill the promise, though it is also unfortunate that earlier generations were denied the gift she offers here. The result is a rare first-hand look at life in the Jewish Ghetto until its destruction, as well as life in some of the most notorious concentration camps, and a tale that encompasses love and hate, kindness and cruelty, grace and horror. It deserves a lasting place in the library of anyone interested in history or the Holocaust. Or simply in human nature.

This is such a poignant writing of such a sad time in the history of our world. There is no possible way that forgiveness would be automatic of losing one's entire family in such a hideous hateful way. May God Bless those who were murdered and those who were able to live on to tell the story of this depressing chapter in our history. We should NEVER EVER FORGET lest it be repeated!

These type of stories are just plain hard to comment about - there's just so much horror, so much pain, so much that's simply difficult to believe that anyone actually survived. If you're remotely interested in the story of people who were actually in and endured the horrors of the Holocaust, then get this book. Patrick

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